

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

IVERSON, JOHN B., AND JAMES F. BERRY. 1980. *Claudius*, *C. angustatus*.

Claudius Cope
Narrow-bridged musk turtle

Claudius Cope, 1865:187. Type-species, *Claudius angustatus* Cope, 1865, by monotypy.

Claudius: Velasco, 1892:75. Erroneous subsequent spelling.

Claudinus: Battersby, in Battersby and Swinton 1961:88.

- CONTENT. One species, *Claudius angustatus*, is recognized.

- DEFINITION. Adult females reach approximately 150 mm in carapace length; males, 165 mm. The adult carapace is generally tricarinate, but the keels often become obscure with age. The first vertebral scute is much broader than long, and usually contacts the second marginal. There are no axillary or inguinal scutes. The tenth and, sometimes, the eleventh marginal scutes are elevated above the preceding marginals. The carapace is light to dark brown with darker brown streaks on the scutes, and dark seams. The bridge is very narrow and a ligament connects the plastron with the rest of the carapace. The reduced cruciform plastron is hingeless and lacks gulars and humerals. It is immaculate cream to light yellow in adults and creamy yellow with a brown to black, foliate (seam-following), central figure in juveniles. The plastron consists of only seven bony elements due to hyo-hyoplastral fusion and the presence of an entoplastron. Abdominal scute growth is directed anteriorly (posteriorly in *Kinosternon*). The skin is yellowish to cream to gray. The sides of the head are mottled in adults and juveniles; the ventral neck region is also mottled in juveniles and some adults. The mottled nasal scale is small, round to ovoid, and extends posteriorly to the level of the anterior orbital rim. Only one pair of chin barbels is present near the mandibular symphysis; none occur on the neck. Several rows of papillae are found on the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the posterior half of the neck. The beak is sharply hooked and a pair of maxillary cusps is present below the anterior margin of the orbit. Adult females possess short, stubby tails, whereas males possess long, thickened, prehensile tails, and a patch of tuberculate scales on the posterior surface of the crus and thigh of each hind leg. The tail bears two longitudinal rows of small tubercles dorsally.

- DESCRIPTIONS, ILLUSTRATIONS, DISTRIBUTION, FOSSIL RECORD, AND PERTINENT LITERATURE. See species account.

- ETYMOLOGY. The name is probably from the Latin *claudus*, meaning defective, and refers to the diminutive plastron.

***Claudius angustatus* Cope**
Narrow-bridged musk turtle

Claudius angustatus Cope, 1865:187. Type-locality, "Tabasco, Mexico." Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus. 6518, adult female, collected by Dr. C. H. Berendt in 1863 (examined by authors). See REMARKS.

Claudius megaloccephalus Bocourt, 1868:122. Type-locality, "Mexico." Restricted to "Tabasco," Mexico, by Smith and Taylor (1950:345). Holotype, Mus. Nat. Hist. Natur., Paris 1600, adult female, collector and date unknown (not examined by authors).

Claudius macrocephalus: Gray, 1873:69. Emendation of Bocourt (1868).

Claudius megacephalus: Boulenger, 1889:33. Emendation of Bocourt (1868).

Claudius angustatus: Velasco, 1892:75.

Claudius agassizii Smith and Taylor, 1950:345. Nomen nudum; lapsus for *angustatus* (H. M. Smith, in litt.).

Claudius angustatum: Sullivan and Riggs, 1967b: figure opposite p. 450.

- CONTENT. No subspecies have been described.
- DEFINITION. See generic account.

- DESCRIPTIONS. Adults are described in Siebenrock (1907), Pritchard (1967), and Alvarez del Toro (1972); the hatchling has not been described. Detailed anatomical descriptions include plastral osteology (Pritchard, 1971), cervical vertebrae (Williams, 1950), skull (Baur, 1893, 1896; Feuer, 1970), cranial circulation (McDowell, 1961), cloacal structure (Smith and James, 1958), choanal structure (Parsons, 1968), penis (Zug, 1966), musk glands (Waagen, 1972), locomotor apparatus (Zug, 1971; Walker, 1973).

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs of adults appear in Holman (1963), Casas Andreu (1967), Pritchard (1967), Hausmann (1968), Klemens (1971), Mittermeier (1971), and Alvarez del Toro (1972); line drawings of adults in Cope (1870), Dumeril and Bocourt (1874), Wermuth and Mertens (1961), and Guibé (1970); line drawing of skull in Gaffney (1979). Special illustrations include the choanae (Parsons, 1968) and the bones of the pelvic girdle and antebrachium (Zug, 1971).

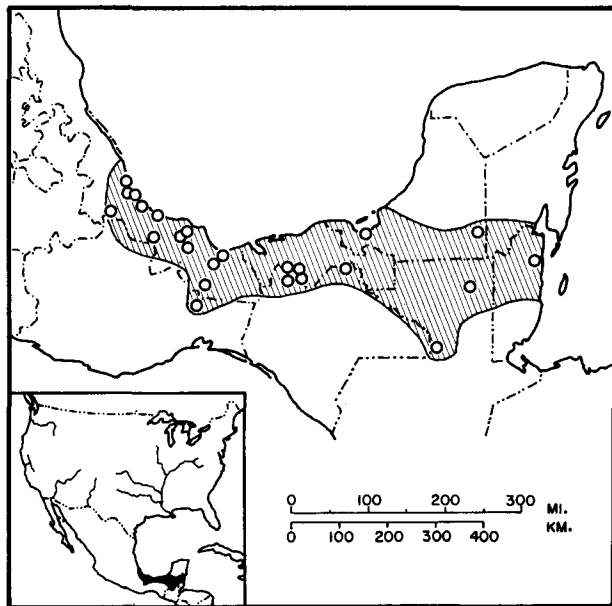
- DISTRIBUTION. *Claudius angustatus* is found throughout the lowlands of the Caribbean versant from central Veracruz, Mexico, eastward through northern Guatemala and Belize, but excluding the Yucatan peninsula.

- FOSSIL RECORD. Archaeological remains are known from Veracruz (Wing, 1976).

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. General accounts are in Casas Andreu (1965, 1967) and Alvarez del Toro (1972). Additional important references are: serology (Frair, 1972); blood chemistry (Sullivan and Riggs, 1967a, 1967b, 1967c); chromosomes (Moon, 1974); parasites (Thatcher, 1963, 1964); predators (Alvarez del Toro, 1974); rostral pores (Winokur and Legler, 1974); food habits (Cope, 1865); habits in captivity (Holman, 1963); terrestrial movements (Ruthven, 1912); evolution (Nopcsa, 1926); and zoogeography (Stuart, 1958; Savage, 1966).

- ETYMOLOGY. The specific name is from the Latin *angustare*, to make narrow, and refers to its narrow bridge.

- REMARKS. Cochran (1961) listed two cotypes for *Claudius angustatus* Cope (U.S. Nat. Mus. 6518 and 6525); however, these represent the shell and soft parts of the same individual. All parts now bear the original number, 6518.



MAP. Open circles mark locality records, shaded area estimates the total range; type-locality not sufficiently restricted to be plotted.

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